



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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February 18, 2010

Good afternoon distinguished members of the Labor Committee, my name is Minnie Gonzalez, and I am submitting this testimony in support of House Bill #5050, AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF CRIMINAL RECORDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DENYING A PROMOTION TO AN INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYED IN THE FOOD SERVICE OR RETAIL INDUSTRIES.

Employees that have been on the job for a time and have proven their worth to the extent they stand to be promoted should not be penalized for previous criminal history for which they have served their time. We should be removing roadblocks so hard-working people that have paid their dues can continue to prosper.

We must make it clear that employers cannot discriminate against employees that have had their records erased or have received a provisional pardon for a prior conviction. If employers are allowed to base their promotions or lack of promoting on records that are supposedly erased or pardoned, then why should the State of Connecticut have a pardon process in the first place?

I have received many complaints from constituents that are trying to make sure they don't revisit mistakes of their past and are attempting to change their lives. They put all they have into their jobs and work toward promotions just like everybody else, just to be told they cannot receive a promotion. This bill seeks to change that practice in order to give these people a fighting chance at maintaining their status as contributing members of society.